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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/735,394

12/12/2003

Peter Euteneuer

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11/28/2006

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EXAMINER

PRITCHETT, JOSHUA L

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2872

DATE MAILED: 11/28/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/735,394	Applicant(s) EUTENEUER ET AL.	
	Examiner Joshua L. Pritchett	Art Unit 2872	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 October 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-50 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-50 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 04 May 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

This action is in response to Request for Continued Examination and Amendment filed October 31, 2006. Claims 1, 2, 4 and 10 have been amended and claims 49 and 50 have been added as requested by the applicant.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 2, 5 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Reinheimer (US 4,619,503).

Regarding claim 1, Reinheimer discloses an inverted microscope having a U-shaped microscope housing (Fig. 3), on one limb (T) whereof is provided a housing attachment surface (6) for attachment of a module (5), wherein the housing attachment surface is parallel to the base of the inverted microscope (Fig. 3) and wherein the module comprises a horizontally protruding based unit (Fig. 3) having on the one hand a binocular tube (Fig. 3; col. 5 line 40) placed thereon, and on the other hand a photo tube (6a; examiner assumes that the reference numeral 5a in Fig. 3 is misplaced and should be labeled 6a), with photo device placed thereon

(col. 5 lines 45-49) and the binocular tube and the photo tube extend above the housing attachment surface when the module is removably attached to the housing attachment surface (Fig. 3).

Regarding claim 2, Reinheimer discloses the module is embodied as a one-piece combination module (Fig. 3) and has on its underside a module attachment apparatus that is configured to be removably attached to the housing attachment surface (col. 4 lines 28-32).

Regarding claims 5 and 12, Reinheimer discloses an infinity beam exists in the region of an attachment surface of the module attachment apparatus (Fig. 3).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 3, 4, 6-11 and 13-48 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Reinheimer (US 4,619,503).

Regarding claims 3 and 8, Reinheimer teaches the vertical optical axis of the photo beam bundle, extending in the one limb penetrates through a first optical deflection element after entering the base unit and then pass through the first tube lens arrange in the photo tube with

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photo device attached while the observation beam deflected at the optical deflection element after passage through a second tube lens and after deflection at a second deflection element enters the binocular tube (col. 5 lines 40-49). Reinheimer teaches the claimed invention except for binocular tube and photo tube being reversed. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to reverse the binocular tube and the photo tube, since it have been held that a mere reversal of working parts of a device involves only routine skill in the art. One would have been motivated to reverse the binocular tube and the photo tube for the purpose of eliminating any aberrations introduced into the observed image by deflecting the observation beam, thus allowing the user to see a sharper image.

Regarding claims 4 and 9-11, Reinheimer teaches the invention as claimed but lacks optical deflection element brought into and out of working position in the Fig. 3 embodiment. Reinheimer teaches an optical deflection element (25) moving in and out of a working position (Fig. 4). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have the Reinheimer invention include in the Fig. 3 embodiment the ability to move an optical deflection element into and out of a working position for the purpose of determining providing all light to either the viewer or an image capturing device so that the image views or captured is brighter due to all the intensity going to one instead of splitting the intensity between the two.

Regarding claims 6, 7 and 19-48, Reinheimer teaches the invention as claimed but lacks reference to different corrections for the photo tube and the binocular tube. It is extremely well known in the art to use periplan correction for flat field eyepieces and HC correction for magnetic recording media. Official Notice is taken. It would have been obvious to one of

ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have the Reinheimer invention include the corrections as known in the art for the purpose of producing a clear image to both the viewer and the photo device.

Regarding claims 13-18, Reinheimer teaches an infinity beam exists in the region of an attachment surface of the module attachment apparatus (Fig. 3).

Regarding claims 49 and 50, Reinheimer teaches the passage through a second tube is parallel to the attachment surface (Fig. 5b). Fig. 5b shows the elongated portion A would have light traveling parallel to the surface 30 similar to the Fig. 1 of the current application.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments, see Amendment, filed October 31, 2006, with respect to objection to claims 4 and 9 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The objection of claims 4, 9 and 10 has been withdrawn. Applicant amended the claims to overcome the objection.

Applicant's arguments filed October 31, 2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues Reinheimer fails to teach a removable module. Reinheimer states the housing 5 attaches to the microscope body. Throughout the reference the term "attach" is associated with a removable element. For example, element 22 is an attachment (abstract) shown in Fig. 4 which can be removed and replaced by element 23 which is also an attachment (col. 6 lines 15-16) as shown in Fig. 3. Therefore since element 22 can be replaced with element 23, the elements 22 and 23 are removable. Thus the term attachment is associated with a removable element.

Applicant argues Reinheimer fails to disclose a one-piece module that contain both a binocular tube and photo tube. Fig. 3. shows both a photo tube and a binocular tube as part of housing 5. Further claim 1 of the current application allows for a binocular tube or a photo tube to be located on the removable housing. The phrase “on the other hand” suggests that one of the photo tube or the binocular tube may satisfy the claim limitations without both being present.

Applicant argues the optical deflection of the Reinheimer is not located in the housing. Reinheimer shows the deflection element 19 in the module housing 5 but the deflection pattern for the binocular tube and photo tube are reversed as set forth in the rejection of claim 3 above.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joshua L. Pritchett whose telephone number is 571-272-2318. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 7:00 - 3:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Drew A. Dunn can be reached on 571-272-2312. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Joshua L Pritchett
Examiner
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